

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4157

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 9674

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: CHARUNPHAN ON THAI/LAO RELATIONS

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTHAYA
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 7. FOLLOWING IS AN
UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON THAI/LAO
RELATIONS.

THAILAND IS GLAD THAT INTERNAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN
REACHED IN LAOS AND THAT A COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS
BEEN SET UP IN THAT COUNTRY AS YOU KNOW ALREADY. THE
THAI GOVERNMENT HAS WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT REACHED
AND HAS STATED IT WILL COOPERATE WITH THE LAO COALITION
GOVERNMENT, AND IT HAS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LAOS
WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN REMEDYING AND OVERCOMING VARIOUS
PROBLEMS IT IS FACED WITH. IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS
GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE GIVING SUPPORT TO LAOS. THIS IS
THE FIRM INTENTION THAT IS THE POLICY OF THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD GOOD FRIEND-
SHIP AND GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS THROUGHOUT IN THE FUTURE.
I FEEL VERY HAPPY OVER THE CABLE I RECEIVED FROM PHOUMI
VONGVICHIT, THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF
LAOS, YESTERDAY CONGRATULATING ME. THIS IS A GOOD
OMEN BECAUSE IT SHOWS LAOS' FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD
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US. AND WE MUST SAFEGUARD THIS FEELING OF BEING SISTER

COUNTIRES AND HAVING MUTUAL GOOD UNDERSTANDING BECAUSE
WE CONSIDER THAT LAOS IS A COUNTRY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, IN
PARTICULAR SINCE WE HAVE A COMMON BORDER. WE WISH TO SEE
IT SAFEGUARDING TRUE NEUTRALITY; THEREFORE SHOULD IT BE
ABLE TO SAFEGUARD ITS NEUTRALITY WE WILL BE MOST HAPPY.
FURTHERMORE, LAOS IS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS NO OUTLET TO THE
SEA, THUS MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS
TO ITS, AND WE ENDEAVOR TO GIVE IT ALL AID POSSIBLE AND IT
IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS. IN
ADDITION, DURING THE RECRNT ASEAN CONFERENCE IN
JAKARTA WHICH I ATTENDED, THE CONFERENCE WAS UNANIMOUS IN
APPROVING AND ISSUING AJOINT STATMENT THAT ASEAN MEMBER
NATIONS SUPPORTTHE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF LAOS AND ARE
READY TO GIVE IT FULL COOPERATION, NOT IN MILITARY AFFAIRS,
BUT IN WAYS THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR LAOS. THIS
REPRESENTS THE VIEW OF ASEAN FOR THIS NEIGHBORING
COUNTRY.
KINTNER

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